

LACK, DAVID

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1948a. The significance of litter size. *J. Animal Ecol.*, **17**: 45-50.

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— AND HANS ARN

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DEAN AMADON

BOOK REVIEWS

*Birds of Cincinnati and Southwestern Ohio*. By EMERSON KEMSIES. Ohio Audubon Society, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1948: 8¼ x 11 in., mimeographed, pp. ii + 60.

The region covered by this bulletin includes Hamilton, Clermont, and Butler counties in Ohio. Within the area are Ohio River bottomlands and upland pastures. The author properly calls attention to an interesting local transition between northern and southern birds. Data are given on 292 species and races, most of them represented by specimens, but a few of questionable status. There are brief notes on the ecology of some species.

The American Woodcock is interestingly considered "a regular and frequent summer resident throughout the area". Red-shouldered Hawks are listed as "fairly common summer residents", while Red-tailed Hawks are not recorded as breeding, and are "seen much less frequently than the following species" (i.e., Red-shouldered Hawk). In the nearby Appalachian region, with which this reviewer is much more familiar, the Red-tailed Hawk is generally a breeding species of the broad river valleys, while the Red-shouldered Hawk is much more common in the mountains.

Accidental confusion between the ranges of the Trumpeter Swan and the Whooping Crane seems apparent. On page 15 the Whooping Crane is described as "...now almost extinct except for a few pairs in Yellowstone and British Columbia. . .".

Bird students in the Cincinnati region will find Mr. Kemsies' bulletin a very useful publication. Other observers in the Ohio Valley will be interested in comparing local conditions in southwestern Ohio with those prevailing in their own regions.

MAURICE BROOKS

*How to Know the Birds: A Simple Aid to Bird Recognition*. By ROGER TORY PETERSON.

A Mentor Book, Published by the New American Library of World Literature, Inc., New York, N. Y. Pp. 144, profuse illus. in black and white. Paper covers. Index. 1949. Price 35¢. Also published by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston with cloth covers and 5 colored plates. Price \$2.00.

The ornithologist has had access to expensive reference books that told him the lengths of bills, tarsi, and folded wings in millimeters, numbers of eggs per clutch, egg measurements, etc. But this inexpensive book tells how to identify birds through perception of their silhouettes, markings, actions, or habitats.

The Peterson Field Guides, superseding all former such publications in their design, may still exclude a number of impecunious bird lovers from owning them, but there is now no excuse for the veriest beggar not to argue with his companion in poverty as to whether that lately-seen bird was a Chipping or a Field Sparrow.

Cheap literature, in the reviewer's opinion, is a blight on the reading public, but in this instance all he can find breath to say is, "Bravo!" We would have a better land and culture